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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji OOKURA

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/561,526

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2005/005758)

I.A. Filed : March 28, 2005

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

For : CONNECTOR AND MANUFACTURING METHOD OF THE
SAME



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby brings the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/005758, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report was enclosed with the papers when entering the U.S. National Stage on December 20, 2005. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2002-008753, together with an English language abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is cited on page1 of the specification of the present application.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No 2003-017162, together with an English language abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2004-055464, together with an English language abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2004-055306, together with an English language abstract of the same and patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0014335;

Japanese Laid-open Utility Model Registration No. HEI 7-36370, together with patent family members U.S. Patent Nos. 5,639,248, 5,641,290, and 5,842,875;

Japanese Laid-open Utility Model Registration No. SHO 63-47579, together with a partial English language translation of the same; and

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2004-111081, together with an English language abstract of the same.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 6,623,308;

U.S. Patent No. 6,806,801;

U.S. Patent No. 6,821,158;

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0009383;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/561,527 to OOKURA, which was filed on December 20, 2005; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/558, 486 to OOKURA, which was filed on November 28, 2005.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents and the U.S. patent application publication are not enclosed herewith. However, if copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent applications were filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent applications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the above-noted documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenji OOKURA


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

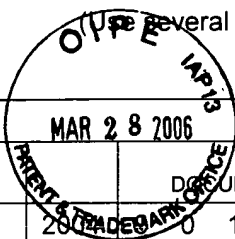
William E. Lyddane
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March 27, 2006
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P28917Application No.
10/561,526INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Attach several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Kenji OOKURAFiling Date
March 28, 2005Group
Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | 0 1 4 3 3 5 | 01/22/04 | IGARASHI | | | |
| | 5 6 3 9 2 4 8 | 06/17/97 | YAGI | | | |
| | 5 6 4 1 2 9 0 | 06/24/97 | YAGI | | | |
| | 5 8 4 2 8 7 5 | 12/01/98 | YAGI | | | |
| | 6 6 2 3 3 0 8 | 09/23/03 | ONO | | | |
| | 6 8 0 6 8 0 1 | 10/19/04 | KADOYA et al. | | | |
| | 6 8 2 1 1 5 8 | 11/23/04 | LIDA et al. | | | |
| 2005 | 0 0 0 9 3 8 3 | 01/13/05 | OKURA et al. | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
|------|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|
| 2002 | - 0 0 8 7 5 3 | 01/11/02 | JAPAN | | | |
| 2003 | - 0 1 7 1 6 2 | 01/17/03 | JAPAN | | | |
| 2004 | - 0 5 5 4 6 4 | 02/19/04 | JAPAN | | | |
| 2004 | - 0 5 5 3 0 6 | 02/19/04 | JAPAN | | | |
| 7 | - 6 3 6 7 0 | 07/04/95 | JAPAN | | | |
| 63 | - 4 7 5 7 9 | 03/31/88 | JAPAN | | | x |
| 2004 | - 1 1 1 0 8 1 | 04/08/4 | JAPAN | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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|---|--|
| 1 | English language abstract of JP 2002-008753. |
| 2 | English language abstract of JP 2003-017162. |
| 3 | English language abstract of JP 2004-055464. |
| 4 | English language abstract of JP 2004-055306. |
| 5 | English language abstract of JP 2004-111081. |
| 6 | U.S. Application No. 10/561,527 to OOKURA, which was filed on December 20, 2005. |
| 7 | U.S. Application No. 10/558,486 to OOKURA, which was filed on December 28, 2005. |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.